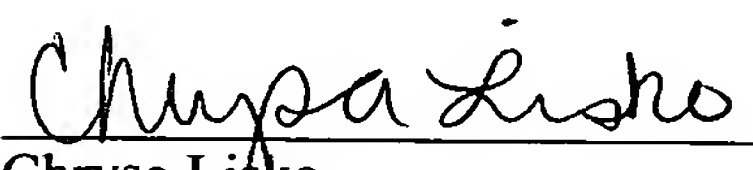


PATENT  
20004/221US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

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Sir:

Prior to examining the above-referenced patent application, please  
enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks:

**The amendments to the claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.